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DP/PROJECTS/7161

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE PHILIPPINES

IPF:(1987-91) $ 32 800 000

(PHI/89/020) - Human Resources Development in Environmental Planning and Management for Sustainable Development in the Philippines

Date of approval:	29 August 1991
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$692 500 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$692 500

Project background

It is the policy of the Republic of the Philippines to ensure the sustainable use, development, management, renewal and conservation of the country's forest, mineral, land, offshore areas and other natural resources, including the protection and enhancement of the quality of the environment, and equitable access of the different segments of the population to the development and use of the country's natural resources, not only for the present generation but also for the future generations as well. The environment of the country is suffering from increasing population, unmanaged over-exploitation of natural resources beyond their sustainable level, and development efforts that ignored environmental sensitivities. The Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan for 1987-1991 aims to uplift the plight of the poor, who are hardest hit by the crisis, and to alleviate poverty by achieving improved efficiencies, through retionalization of the public sector and the adoption of a people-oriented rural-based strategy. Sustainable growth and development will be pursued through a decentralized broad-based participatory approach, and the transformation of the poor into self-reliant and productive citizens activity participating in and contributing to the total development effort.

The reorganization of the Government is guided by the key organizational principles of decentralization, checks and balances, through devolution of more power from central units, strengthening of regional and local units as focal points of development efforts, and more active participation of people in decision-making and implementation of the development programs. The participation of the private sector, NGOs, community-based institutions and peoples' volunteer organizations will be harnessed in the identification, formulation and implementation of policies, plans and programs supportive of the development goals, that will particularly take into consideration the needs of the people at the grassroots level. The development of a community-based resources management programme is also being intensified through the increased participation of beneficiaries and local communities in optimal resources development, management and protection activities, in order to remedy the constraints to equity and poverty alleviation, and to preserve the ecological balance for future generations. This

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will be done through optimum resource allocation and their sustainable utilization. An intensive information dissemination campaign is being mounted for mobilization of peoples' participation as custodians of the environment and for the development of consensual resource development programmes, through the provision of support activities such as training for upgrading the quality of human resources, development communication and technology transfer.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is, to upgrade and promote national capabilities for sustainable development planning at the regional and local levels, as part of the overall strategy for governmental decentralization, by promoting local self-reliance in the consideration and incorporation of environmental dimensions in regional development planning, and people's participation in its implementation and monitoring. The immediate objectives of the proje ct are to:(a) transfer environmental management expertise to the country's regions through a series of training activities and promotion of environmental awareness among the rural people; (b) develop and strengthen regional institutional infrastructure and capabilities for undertaking continued educational training activities in the field of environmental management; and (c) support and enhance environmental promotion activities at the grassroots level to attain the sustainability of natural resources that would benefit the subsistence livelihood practices that depend upon these resources for their sustenance, particularly benefiting the rural poor and women who are most affected.

The project will achieve this primarily through a series of training activities addressing selected target groups, using training materials, such as manuals, modules, handbooks, guidelines and audio-visual programs; training of trainers on their most efficient and effective utilization; a series of training activities in the three major regions of the country, separately for regional/provincial/local government officials, educators and regional NGOs/peoples' organizations; and practical training through case studies in the incorporation of environmental dimensions in development projects. In addition, high-ranking government officials and business executives will also be sensitized to the importance of environment for sustainable development. It is expected that the interactions generated at the grassroots level through the project will awaken and sustain the interests of the rural people at the subsistence level in order to achieve their increased involvement in the implementation and monitoring of environmentally sound rural development projects.

Inputs

UNDP will provide twelve man-months of foreign consultants (environmental training specialists) to prepare the training modules, manuals, handbooks and guidelines; 122 man-months of national consultants to conduct the series of training activities in the three regions, and separately for the various target groups; equipment for the preparation of the different training materials, especially the audio-visual programmes, and their utilization in the training activities; finances for foreign fellowships for advanced training in selected areas; and cost of study tours.

The Government will provide the support personnel for the successful facilitation of project implementation and physical facilities for implementing the various activities.

Financial data

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Personnel	257 000
Training	284 000
Equipment	140 000
Miscellaneous	11 500
Total	692 500